

**PATENT**

U.S. Appln. S.N. 09/936,077  
AMENDMENT

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please rewrite claim 9, as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which were, or are, in the application:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising at least one planar surface wherein at least two compartments are made and defined by a partition, the compartments creating a space which makes it possible to displace at least two liquid samples independently of one another, the compartments comprising at least two different types of grooves:

- at least one deep groove capable of partitioning samples from one another, the depth and the width of the deep groove in relation to the partition being such that capillary action of a sample is not enabled, and
- at least two shallow grooves, each of the shallow grooves being capable of receiving one of the samples, respectively, the depth of shallow grooves in relation to the partition being such that capillary action of the sample is enabled, each shallow groove being adjacent to the deep groove, along the entire length of said deep groove.

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10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein a deep groove is positioned between two shallow grooves.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the two shallow grooves meet at one of the ends of the deep groove to create a reaction zone there, where the two liquid samples may be brought together.

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the distance between the reaction zone and the partition is such that capillary action is enabled.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the distance between the reaction zone and the partition is such that capillary action is not enabled.